

HUMANITIES NETWORK



Newsletter of the California
Council for the Humanities

Fall, 1982
Volume 5, No. 3



Man with plow in prune orchard, c. 1910. Photographer unknown. Courtesy California Historical Society, San Francisco.

Passing Farms: Enduring Values

By Yvonne Jacobson

There once was a place of such perfection it was called "The Valley of Heart's Delight." In 1892 the Horticultural Commissioner of California said, "Santa Clara County is pre-eminently the horticultural county of the state. More than one-half of all the prune trees in America are in this county." Santa Clara County is still there, of course, on the southern rim of San Francisco Bay, but today it is known as "Silicon Valley."

The contours are the same. The Santa Cruz mountains bound the valley on the west. The bare Diablo mountain range flanks one side from

north to east. The soil is still as fine as anywhere in the world. It was borne down from the mountain heights over centuries of rain, layer after layer of rich alluvial fill so deep that it reached more than forty feet in many areas. But today most of the rich agricultural land is paved over, built up and forgotten.

When Bayard Taylor, noted poet and world traveller, saw this valley in the early 1850s he said:

How shall I describe a landscape so unlike anything else in the world; with a beauty so new and dazzling, that all ordinary comparisons are

worthless? A valley ten miles wide, through the centre of which winds the dry bed of a winter stream, whose course is marked with groups of giant sycamores, their trunks gleaming like silver through masses of glossy foliage; over the level floor of this valley park-like groves of oaks, whose mingled grace and majesty can only be given by the pencil...

Taylor went on to predict that this valley within a hundred years would produce "a more beautiful race..."

Continued on Page 2

Exhibits in the Humanities

By Katherine Kobayashi
CCH Program Officer

When is an exhibit a public program in the humanities? What kinds of exhibits are eligible for CCH funding?

First and most important, as with all formats, an exhibit must be clearly related to the perspectives of the humanities, must explicitly reflect upon ideas in their cultural, historical, and philosophical context. A good humanities exhibit—like a good history book or philosophical treatise—must have a significant argument, and

Continued on Page 6

Passing Farms: Enduring Values

Continued from Page 1

symmetry and grace of the Greek restored... milder manners... keener appreciation of all the arts which enrich and embellish life."

In 1868 John Muir passed through the county and wrote in his diary:

We crossed the bay by the Oakland Ferry and proceeded up the Santa Clara valley to San Jose. This is one of the most fertile of many small valleys of the coast; its rich bottoms are filled with wheat-fields, and orchards, and vineyards, and alfalfa meadows. It was spring-time, and the weather was the best we ever enjoyed. Larks and streams sang everywhere; the sky was cloudless, and the whole valley was a lake of light.

Between then and now another culture existed. Based on the small family farm system, our county adhered to the American ideal expressed by Daniel Webster, Thomas Jefferson and other advocates of the yeoman farm tradition. In 1840 Webster said, "We live in a country of small farms and free-hold tenements; a country in which men cultivate with their own hands their own fee-simple acres drawing not only their subsistence but also their spirit of independence and manly freedom, from the ground they plough."

While most of California after 1848 fell into the legacy of the huge Spanish and Mexican land grants, farming on a scale of thousands of acres in many cases, Santa Clara Valley clung to the idea of the farm ladder which Abraham Lincoln described. Beginning at the bottom, the newcomer "labors for wages for awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land for himself; then labors on his own account another while, and at length hires another new beginner to help him." While this farm ladder existed in our county until the post World War II land boom, it is now very difficult to break into agriculture and land owner-

ship even in less urbanized areas of California.

Our own family came to Santa Clara County at the turn of the century. My Swedish immigrant grandparents, Carl and Hannah Olson, settled in Sunnyvale, not far from the present day Lockheed Missiles & Space Company. They planted cherries and ran a small dairy but they moved south of El Camino highway in 1918 when town "became too crowded."

At this time there were over eight million fruit trees in our county, six million of them prunes! Our family farm was typical of the other 5,000 or so county farms of the time. My father took over from my grandfather when the latter died in the 1930s. My brother Charles has taken over from my father, Ruel Charles, who died in 1980.

Children, the next generation, were the main focus of a family farm. In growing up on this farm we three children were exposed to a way of life which is all but gone from the United States. We worked in the shed where scrumptious Bing cherries were hand-packed for the New York market and where we sold our fruits to the public. We cut apricots alongside adults and other children who came from the small towns to the farm to work. We picked prunes with our mother, Rose Zammar Olson, an immigrant from Lebanon. Besides taking care of her three children she worked beside my father, organizing the prune pickers and selling fruit at our stand.

Hard work was one value we learned very early, and there were several others by which the community lived. Independence, self-reliance, pride of work, concern for neighbors, sense of community, and honesty in human relations were all part of the way of life which characterized the family farms.

A place which is perfect for agriculture is also perfect for people, and after World War II they came, bringing striking change to the Santa Clara Valley. Where fruit trees and farms once stood in picturesque abundance we now have a new industry, a new

pattern of life based on the inventions of high technology. And just as it was the leader in fruit producing and processing in earlier years, the Valley has become the world's largest and most innovative center for high technology electronics. Our new landscape with its low buildings, tract homes and shopping centers looks like the grid of the integrated circuits, the silicon chips created by our high-technology companies.

Today there are over one and a quarter million people in our county, a four-fold increase from the 1950s, and many of these lives relate in one way or another to the multi-faceted high technologies developed in the area. So many people coming together so quickly created problems, so that scarce housing, congested roads, overburdened public services, high per capita debt, and smog are all part of "The Valley of Heart's Delight."

Even so, in many ways we have fulfilled Bayard Taylor's prediction. Many refer to this scientific and cultural explosion as a "new Athens," though much has been lost.

The thread which binds us to the past is fragile. Its basis is memory, the combined and proven memory of individuals; and it is important because it can lead us back to ourselves and to what is of value in our lives. Perhaps we can never recapture the exact human scale, the intimacy of a community where there were very few anonymous people, but the ideal should be in front of our eyes. The values of a closely knit community which fosters independence, meaningful purpose, in which concern for one another is of prime importance, should never be forgotten. These values must endure in any society which calls itself human.

Yvonne Jacobson is a lecturer in the Humanities Department at De Anza College in Cupertino and in its California History Center. She is also a freelance writer and photographer, and directed the project which resulted in the "Passing Farms: Enduring Values" exhibit. She is now compiling photographs and added text into a book.

Research Grants in History

The American Association for State and Local History announces the availability of research grants for individuals and organizations working in state and local history. A new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities enables the Association to administer a competitive program of small grants-in-aid for research focusing on or making use of materials about a locality, community, state, or region. Fifty such grants of up to \$3,000 each will be available in 1983, and again in 1984.

Dr. James B. Gardner, staff historian at AASLH, will administer the program and chair a five-member selection committee for research grants, to be appointed shortly by the Association. This committee will have responsibility for judging applications and awarding grants. Criteria for selection will include the need for the project, the capacities of the applicant, and the potential value of the research results.

The first application deadline is July 15, 1983. Awards will be announced following the AASLH Annual Meeting, October 3-7, 1983.

For more than forty years the American Association for State and Local History has served scholars and students, archivists and curators, and various other professionals and volunteers dedicated to saving and using the significant historical resources of states and localities. To support this work, the Association issues a monthly magazine, *History News*, publishes books and technical leaflets that address major concerns in the history field, and offers a variety of educational programs, including an annual meeting, audiovisual programs, seminars, workshops, and a program of Independent Study or correspondence courses.

For information about the research grant program or about membership in the Association, write or call James B. Gardner, Staff Historian, AASLH, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37204, (615) 383-5991.

Nominations Invited

The California Council for the Humanities, an organization of public-spirited citizens interested in the humanities, seeks nominations for membership on the Council.

Annual vacancies are filled from a list compiled by the nominating committee; the public is invited to suggest names of academic scholars or other distinguished citizens who have made significant contributions to the humanities. In inviting new members, the committee seeks representation from California's many and varied geographical, occupational and ethnic constituencies.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their own or others' names on the accompanying form, enclosing a brief resume setting forth the nominee's

occupation, education and areas of public service, and summarizing his or her contribution to the humanities, either professional or volunteer.

Council members are unsalaried but are reimbursed for expenses. Membership involves six to eight days of time a year. Council committees evaluate past performance, set future goals, modify or add new funding categories and activities, review grant proposals, choose the projects to be supported, and provide oversight of program administration.

Names should be submitted for nominating committee consideration as soon as possible. For the current round of nominations, forms should be in the Council's San Francisco office no later than January 24.

California Council for the Humanities
312 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

I nominate _____
as a member of the California Council for the Humanities

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Profession: _____

Business or professional title: _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Business or professional title: _____

GRANTS AWARDED

Local and Cultural History

THE WINE INDUSTRY IN THE SONOMA VALLEY: A HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

Sponsor: The Sonoma Depot Museum

The Sonoma Valley is the birthplace of the California wine and grape-growing industry, with activities dating back to the 1850s and involving ethnic heritages that include Hungarians, Spanish, Italians, Chinese and American Indians.

The Sonoma Depot Museum, administered by the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, will prepare an interpretive and educational exhibition centered around a replica of the Buena Vista Winery built in 1856, which was the first winery established in the Sonoma Valley and a major catalyst in bringing different cultural groups into the area. An informational brochure, posters, and local newspaper articles will publicize the cultural impact of the wine industry and the heritages that took part in it.

These activities will coincide with the annual Sonoma Wine Festival in September of 1983, when lectures and discussions on the history of wine-making and its association with the development of the valley will be featured events.

SPECTRUM, 200-COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sponsors: California State University, Los Angeles Library/Center for Public Resources; John F. Kennedy Library

This project seeks to make an active community tool of the Spectrum 200 mobile exhibit of photographs from the city of Los Angeles, 1860-1940, created as part of the city's bicentennial celebration and now owned by the university. By means of workshops, school programs and community forums, faculty from the humanities and the social sciences plan to use the displays to stimulate discussion and study relating to the diverse threads of Los Angeles history. They are also seen as a focus for analyzing and coping with current community problems.

A catalog of the exhibit, portraying the history of the Los Angeles region through photographs and text, is also planned, to be distributed at the time of the 1984 Olympics. Radio and

television programs, lectures and newspaper articles will be used to increase public access, with the purpose of making the exhibit a dynamic and involved part of processes for change.

THE STORY OF THE ALL WOMEN'S ORCHESTRAS IN CALIFORNIA, 1893-1955

Sponsor: University of Southern California Program for the Study of Women and Men in Society

At least 17 all-women orchestras were organized and performed throughout California between 1893 and 1955. This project will seek out surviving members and resource people connected with these orchestras to explore their history, the reasons for their rise and decline, their role in community music life and in the lives and careers of the women who played in and conducted them.

The results will take four forms: a radio documentary; a pamphlet on the history of women's orchestras with photographs and a bibliography; a traveling exhibit for installation in libraries and other public spaces; and a permanent archive for the exhibit at a California educational institution open to the public.

EXHIBITION ON CHINESE POPULAR RELIGION

Chinese/Chinese American History Project

An exhibit of artifacts and photographs, accompanied by captions, an informational booklet, and a lecture series, will acquaint viewers with the religious background and traditions of much of the population of China as well as of Chinese immigrants to the United States and Chinese Americans living here. The exhibit will be divided into four sections: religion in the home, religion in the temple for the ordinary worshipper, rites associated with death, and festivals with religious connotations.

Three large artifacts—a dragon boat, a temple altar, and a lion's head from the lion dances, will be supplemented by numerous smaller objects. The Chinese Historical Society and many other Chinese community organizations will participate by soliciting and lending artifacts and providing publicity. Proposed display

sites are the San Jose Historical Museum, the Oakland Museum, the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Museum in Sacramento, and the museum of the Chinese Culture Foundation in San Francisco.

THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES, 1970-1920

Sponsor: California Historical Society, San Francisco

The accomplishments of women in the history of California and their critical role in the development of California communities will be the subject of a radio series and an accompanying brochure.

The first radio program will feature stories of Native Californian women and will highlight unique cultural patterns among the tribes of California and assess the nature of European and "American" contact and interaction.

A panel discussion will include Native Californian women and scholars who will discuss issues such as health, culture and the preservation of historical sites in the state. The series will conclude with four dramatic readings for and about Native California women from four distinct geographical areas.

The brochure, which will provide an overview of the entire topic, will parallel and promote the series. It will be available to schools, libraries, community centers and businesses throughout the state.

WILDERNESS JOURNAL

Sponsors: Stephen Fisher Productions; KCET Los Angeles

An hour-long television documentary is planned to offer a penetrating and humanistic response to deeper issues raised by current western land management debates, revealing new attitudes toward the spiritual meaning of the western landscape. Taking the form of an odyssey through five states, the program will consider historical and literary responses to the landscape, and juxtapose these perceptions with the needs and dilemmas of a largely urbanized nation seeking refreshment and inspiration.

An actor will serve as presenter to narrate and tie the program together.

He will motivate the changes of locale, introduce historical and literary personages, and reflect on his participation with the new discoverers and sense of discovery in the west.

Interviews will focus on new explorers of the west who have been intimately involved with the landscape—mountain climbers, Native American groups, outdoor lovers, residents of rural communities, ranchers, geologists. The narrator will meet them, explore their special places with them, and try to project the idea of the west as they see it.

Funding for this project comes also from the state humanities programs of Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and Montana.

SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD

Sponsors: KQED, Inc. in collaboration with Video Free America, San Francisco

Four diverse neighborhoods in San Francisco will be explored to analyze the dynamics of social change that make each a distinct, constantly evolving community. Twelve meetings of a planning group will bring together scholars in history, literature and urban studies with technical experts and people who live and work in the neighborhood, to plan a four-part television series. Accounts of present-day living experiences will supplement oral histories gathered by researchers, and the resulting programs will reflect both philosophic discussions and actualities.

The project will produce a documentary script for a series expected to draw nation-wide interest.

THE STORY OF THE SEPULVEDA AND THE GIBBS FAMILIES

Sponsor: El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park

This project will plan historical exhibits at the Sepulveda House, an Eastlake Victorian structure currently being restored at the park which is situated in the oldest section of Los Angeles. The Sepulveda and related Gibbs family built and lived in the house from 1887 to 1905, and participated in the transition from purely Mexican to a mixed Anglo-American Mexican lifestyle.

The five rooms and an entrance hall to be furnished for exhibition include a Visitors' Center which will contain photographs, archival material and artifacts illustrating the physical restoration of the building, as well as the story of the family members. Historians specializing in the period will work with curators and researchers on the park staff to select the furnishings, artifacts and other materials to be displayed, and to create a series of lectures for visitors to the exhibitions.

The presentations are intended to help the Mexican-American people of Los Angeles to understand and put into perspective their social history in the late 19th century, within the context of the city's multi-cultural development.



Illustrations on these pages are from "Science and the Leap of Faith," sponsored by a consortium led by the University of Southern California.

GRANTS AWARDED

Public Policy

WOMEN AND HEALTH IN ELECTRONICS

Sponsor: Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health

Potential health hazards facing women employees in the electronics industry and the responsibility attached to these will be the subject of a three-part series. Part I will present a historical overview of the industry in Santa Clara Valley; Part II will feature oral histories of a number of women employees representing a diversity of cultures, backgrounds and outlook. This program will include community call-ins.

Part III will discuss women and health in electronics and issues of industry regulation. Panelists will include an electronics employee, an agency member, a technology systems manager and a history professor. They will address the subject of improved occupational safety in electronics: whether government or industry should oversee regulation, and whether improvements should be subject to a cost-benefit analysis. Public participation will be encouraged through call-ins.

The three programs will be condensed and translated into Spanish to produce a two-hour summary program for Spanish-speaking listeners.

WATER LAW REFORM

Sponsor: Western Water Education Foundation

A series of three half-hour radio programs address the issues underlying the Water Resources Initiative which appeared on the November California ballot. A symposium on the initiative, sponsored by the Western Water Education Foundation and the University of California at Davis and attended by 300 decision-makers, defined the issues and heard opponents and proponents of the proposition. The radio programs were based on this conference.

Scholars in the humanities discussed the philosophical and practical benefit-burden distribution represented by the proposed law reform, seeking to identify whose interests were identified with the passage or defeat of the proposition. They analyzed the values and needs of society that underlie the two positions and how changes in values may affect the principles that governed water distribution in California for more than 60 years.

CHANGING VALUES IN NON-METROPOLITAN CALIFORNIA

Sponsor: California State University, Chico, School of Behavioral and Social Sciences

A series of seminars will describe and assess the present and future effects of changing values, behavior, and technology upon the quality of life in non-metropolitan communities in California. One forum will explore the effects of changing values and life

styles in family composition and attitudes toward work as they bear upon the rural areas and small communities of the state. A second seminar will focus on value and behavioral changes in sex roles, as women have emerged into public policy-making positions in substantial numbers and have set up new institutions as a result of the women's movement.

The third meeting will look at changes in attitudes about people in different age groups and consequent changes in relationships between people in different generations, in the non-urban context. The final forum will bring together the principal points already made and examine other kinds of value-related change, such as the pervasive expansion of computer technology, as a basis for predicting future characteristics of life in non-metropolitan California. Scholars in American studies, English, history, philosophy and women's studies will serve as presenters and panel members.



Public and Community Programs

NEXA CONSORTIUM DEVELOPMENTAL CONFERENCE

Sponsor: NEXA—the Science/Humanities Convergence Program at San Francisco State University

The NEXA concept, which includes a curriculum of science/humanities courses, a scholarly journal, faculty staff seminars, a scholarly community, and public event programming, will be introduced to representatives of the California State University system statewide in a one-day conference. A diverse group, selected with the help of campus presidents and including scientists and humanists, will form a task force to establish a NEXA consortium throughout the state.

Participants will chart out how such a consortium might best serve each individual campus and how that campus might work to bring the NEXA concept to a statewide synergistic level. A steering committee will be set up to begin implementing the plans for a consortium and making preliminary preparations for a public event focusing on values in the spring of 1983.

THE CONTEMPORARY IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN ORANGE COUNTY: "THE SHAPING OF A MULTI-ETHNIC COMMUNITY"

Sponsor: South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa

The purposes of this project are: 1) to examine through the various lenses of the humanities the specific characteristics of contemporary immigrant experience in Orange County in arriving in and adjusting to a new community; 2) to compare these findings with the general themes and issues of immigration in United States history; 3) to disseminate this knowledge through the publication of a 50-80 page volume of articles in con-

junction with the production of a dramatic presentation.

According to the 1980 census, Latinos and other minority groups constitute more than one-quarter of Orange County's estimated population of 2 million, a ten-fold increase from the previous census, attributed to the rapid and substantial influx of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Scholars will study and write on the following topics, especially on how they affect immigrant children and families: religion, philosophy, education, business, jurisprudence, government, language, culture, and family life and customs. A selection of case histories will supplement the general articles.

In a second phase, not funded by CCH, the sponsor will commission a writer and composer to adapt the articles into a musical drama which will tour schools and community centers in southern California. The book will also be available in Orange County libraries and community agencies.

GLENDAL MINI PROGRAMS—"SCHOLARS AND SCHOOLS"

Sponsor: Glendale Unified School District

Five secondary schools in the district will establish a network of programs to extend exemplary practices of student/community/scholar interaction established under a previous Scholars-in-Residence pilot program to use the expertise of humanities scholars in a range of activities including research, study trips, media/publications and school-community events.

Individually, the schools will engage scholars to serve as resource persons to work with students and teachers in the humanities disciplines. Collectively, they will exchange and

share products and experiences among themselves and with the community.

The project will strive to maintain student and community interest in local history and to promote awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity in the urban/suburban milieu.

THE GAY AND LESBIAN MEDIA

Sponsor: Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition, Department of Theatre Arts, University of California, Los Angeles

A weeklong series of film screenings, panel presentations, workshops and group discussions will address the treatment of gay and lesbian topics in the visual media: film, video and advertising. The combination of a film and video festival will provide a historical perspective on gay and lesbian filmmaking, as well as a survey and commentary on current trends in production and distribution.

Panels will also discuss gay and lesbian genres and styles: pornography, experimental film, motion picture industry production and independent production, kitsch and camp. Sessions will be led by scholars in film and video critical studies, American studies, and intellectual and cultural history.

Grants listed on these pages cover two CCH quarterly deadlines. As a consequence, some of the projects described here may have completed their events. For information on the status of any project, please consult the CCH office in San Francisco.

GRANTS AWARDED

Public Radio and Television

AMERICAN SAMURAI: STANDARD BEARERS FOR AN EXILED PEOPLE

Sponsor: Film Arts Foundation, San Francisco

An hour-long documentary film will examine the political and social conditions that led to the formation during World War II of the Japanese American Military Intelligence Service Unit, the 100th Battalion and 442nd Japanese American Combat Team. These young men, who came mostly from American wartime internment camps, became the "most decorated unit in the history of the U.S. Army" and were credited by General MacArthur with having probably saved a million lives.

The film will include live interviews with veterans and key governmental and military figures, dramatic re-enactments, War Department footage and still photographs from internment camps. Its aim is to bring to

the larger California population a look at the wartime experiences of Japanese American soldiers as well as a dramatic understanding of the 100-year legacy of anti-Asian legislation in this country, focusing on the efforts of the Nisei to overcome the prejudice and suspicion around them, and to win for themselves and their children full enfranchisement and recognition as Americans.

The advisory panel will include scholars in history, ethnic studies, ethics, sociology and anthropology as well as leaders in the Japanese American community.

THE HOMEFRONT

Sponsor: University of Southern California Department of History

A 90-minute documentary film will look at the social history of the American people during the years 1941-45, focusing on the massive

impact of World War II on the lives of ordinary people and of the nation. The format is a compilation film using archival materials—newsreels, government and theatrical footage, still photographs and graphic materials—combined with interviews of individuals whose experiences reflect the film's themes.

Of 22 interviewees, 13 are Californians who experienced the war in California, either as natives or newcomers. The social and economic impact of the war on the West Coast, and on California in particular, will be illustrated through the stories of men and women who took part in both the military and civilian defense efforts and encountered as never before people from varying regions, ethnic groups, religions, classes and races.

Consultants on the film include social and oral historians and sociologists.

Dissemination of the Humanities

SHARING A HERITAGE: AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS CONFERENCE RADIO DOCUMENTARY

Sponsor: University of California, Los Angeles, American Indian Studies Center

Four one-hour documentaries and four 6-8 minute drop-in segments will be made from tapes recorded at the sixth annual Conference on Contemporary American Indian Issues, "American Indian Arts Conference." The individual programs will be titled: 1) Evolution of a Culture: More than Beads and Silver; 2) 100 Years of Indian Art: Dilemmas in Value Changes; 3) Cultural Preservation and Revival; and 4) The Ethics of Documentation, Preserving and Sharing Indian Culture.

Speakers and interviewees include tribal elders, scholars in ethnomusicology, anthropology and history, artists, writers, musicians, museum curators, and prominent persons of the American Indian community. They will address issues facing contemporary American Indian artists, scholars and community people who are attempting to preserve the culture in artifacts, art objects and traditional techniques.

The programs will be offered to all public, NCFB and Pacifica radio stations and will be available on cassettes for purchase.

ETHICAL ISSUES IN NURSING

Sponsor: Boston Film/Video Foundation, Inc.

This project will create a context for exploring some of the ethical dilemmas of nursing practice by nurses, physicians, health care administrators and consumers, under the guidance of humanist scholars with expertise in the field. It will look at such problems as conflicting loyalties to patients and to the physician, confusion among roles as employee and as professional, and tensions between ethical ideals and the realities faced in day-to-day practice.

Planned and primarily funded in Massachusetts, the project will have four components: 1) a 20-25 minute film documenting some significant ethical conflicts faced by nurses; 2) a series of seminars using the film to generate discussion among health care professionals, consumers and humanists; 3) a study guide to the film to make it more accessible to general audiences; 4) nation-wide distribution of the materials produced.

The CCH award will cover filming one of the central sequences in San Francisco and conducting at least four seminars in California. Scholars in the field of history, jurisprudence, and philosophy will act as advisors on the film and will speak at the seminars.

Humanities and Contemporary Issues

THE HUMANITIES AND THE REAL WORLD

Sponsor: The Threepenny Review, Berkeley

Four major scholarly articles appeared in *The Threepenny Review* during 1982, with CCH support. Commissioned under the general topic, "Humanities and the Real World," these included "The Search for Social Truth" by Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard; "Clio Among the Doctors" by Thomas Laqueur, professor of history at UC Berkeley; "Utopia and Anti-Utopia" by Peter Stansky, professor of history at Stanford; and "Chinese English" by Stephen Greenblatt, professor of English at UC Berkeley. The series is judged to have begun a continuing relationship between the magazine's readership and

the academic community.

Four similar articles to be commissioned for the magazine in 1983 are expected to work into a permanent feature, disseminating essays in the humanities with further need for outside support.

IMPROVISATIONAL PRACTICES IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

Sponsor: University of California, San Diego, Center for Music Experiment and Related Research

Two conferences will bring together artists who work in improvisation as an alternative to the tradition of their art, and scholars who have studied the traditional oral cultures of the world, to try to analyze the nature of improvisation, to explore its struc-

tures, and to look at the significance for contemporary society of recent sudden and widespread interest in improvisation. Another model for study is everyday conversation.

Although California has become a leading center for improvisation practices on the part of musicians, poets, actors and other performance artists, the subject has not been systematically investigated. Discussion will focus on concepts of rules, patterning, ornamentation, and authenticity of communication, and will assess the methodologies that have been used by scholars to interpret oral cultures.

Humanities disciplines represented will include anthropology, ethnic studies, linguistics, and sociology. Discussions will alternate with artistic performances.

Humanities in California Life

HUMANITIES: THE KEY TO INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Sponsor: Jefferson Union High School District, Daly City

In a high school district with a broad-based ethnic and cultural mix among students, a scholar-in-residence program will be initiated in two target schools, emphasizing the humanities within the context of multi-cultural education.

The program will affect approximately 2500 students from 9th through 12th grade, and will involve at least 10 teachers from fine arts, foreign language, English and social science. It will promote cross-discipline communication with subjects such as mathematics and science wherever appropriate.

The format will include in-service introductory presentations, lectures, curriculum planning, development of archive materials, brown-bag seminars, films, field trips, walking tours and evening presentations. Community participation will be welcomed and solicited in all phases.



Exhibits in the Humanities

Continued from Page 1

the various components of the exhibit should clearly speak to that argument.

Thus, a series of images or objects, standing alone, divorced from their cultural context—like a series of isolated anecdotes or musings—would not have the substantive, explicit argument necessary for a humanities project. But an exhibit focusing on the history of a particular cultural group in the context of generational change and in comparison with other cultural groups could be eligible for CCH support.

Featured in this issue of *Humanities Network* are two exhibits, both of which have had showings in a number of museums and other locations, including the corridors of the state capitol in Sacramento. "Passing Farms: Enduring Values" is the story of the gradual transformation of the Santa Clara Valley from "The Valley of Heart's Delight" filled with farms and fruit trees, to the present thriving center of the electronics industry. Sponsored by the California History Center at De Anza College and the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, this collection can be

seen outside the Governor's office through February 5. It is to be permanently housed in an antique redwood barn specifically restored for the exhibit by the San Jose History Museum, and a book of photographs and text is now in progress.

"The Armenian Community of California: The First One Hundred Years," was sponsored by the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian Film Foundation, and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, on the occasion of the California Armenian Centennial. Together with a slide show and an accompanying booklet containing a written history, the exhibit illustrates highlights and achievements in the life of the Armenian community in California from its first permanent settlers in 1881 until the centennial.

Other exhibits include a showing supported in collaboration with Humanities Councils in Texas and Arizona and containing multi-media components, called "Two Centuries of Hispanic Theatre in the Southwest," a series depicting participants and incidents in the labor struggles in Hollywood during the 1930s and 1940s,

sponsored by the Film Arts Foundation; a collection of photographs from family albums among Japanese-Americans in California, "Changing Patterns of Community: Japanese-Americans, A Cultural Legacy in Crisis," sponsored by the Japanese Community Center of the East Bay; and a combination of photographs and artifacts, an information booklet and a lecture series on the practice of Chinese popular religion, sponsored by the Chinese/Chinese American History Project.

When done well, a humanities exhibit can have advantages over the usual book or discussion series. It can combine pictures, words and objects for a more integrated view of the subject, and it is often more accessible and interesting to a wider public audience, useful both to those who go quickly through it and to those who spend more time studying it. (For more on exhibits, see the recent article by Pamela Rogow in *Grantsmanship Center News*, Sept./Oct. 1982. Rogow and her partner, Jeff Bernstein, designed an excellent small exhibit for a project on the history of the communities of the Coachella Valley.)

With its capacity for leisurely

perusal and for looking back and forth, an exhibit can be even more effective than a film which is a one-way and often a one-time experience.

While noting the considerable strengths of exhibits, however, their limitations should also be recognized. Because of the constraints of time, space and people's attention spans, exhibits can oversimplify and lack depth; the viewer may be rather passive, lacking the opportunity to discuss or question the ideas presented by the exhibit; exhibits tend to reach those already interested in a subject, rather than to create completely new interest; and once people leave the exhibit, especially those who just walk through, it is not clear what they take away from it.

These weaknesses can be alleviated by combining an exhibit with other, complementary means of outreach; indeed CCH often funds exhibits in conjunction with seminars, workshops, radio programs, or printed materials. The point is that, while exhibits may not be a perfect solution to the challenges of public humanities programming, they certainly provide worthwhile and stimulating possibilities.



From "The Armenian Community in California: The First Hundred Years—"
Above: the Seropian brothers in Fresno, c. 1883, among the first Armenians to settle in California. Top right: Armenian young men on a picnic near Fresno, c. 1900.
Right: The Armenian Float in the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, 1915.



From the Chinese/Chinese-American History Project:
Top: a kitchen god. Center:
a Buddha. Left: an Almanac
or book of divination.

CCH Requests Proposals on Justice and Equality

A second Request for Proposals, asking for humanities projects on the subject of *Justice and Equality*, will be ready shortly at the CCH San Francisco office. Like the first RFP on *Peace and War* issued last November, the winning proposal in this round will earn an award of up to \$50,000 for a project that combines research and scholarly discussion of the topic with a plan for widespread public dissemination and participation.

Proposals are due in San Francisco on April 30, 1983, and will be screened in a two-stage process. They must be submitted on special application forms according to instructions obtainable from the CCH offices. Awards must be matched by the sponsor with in-kind services or local funds.

The proposed project must include activities designed to reach a wide range of the California population as well as opportunities for intensive analysis of the issues, as in small seminars. A typical format might include a sequence of activities as follows: (1) research and preparation of papers; (2) invitational seminars; (3) public conferences; and (4) dissemination of materials through the media.

In designing the project, the sponsor should develop a structure of activities which will allow for the intensive examination of the chosen topics through research and small group discussions as well as broad public airing of the issues. The proposed activities should fit into an overall plan which integrates the views of experts, humanists, policymakers, and the general public into the discussion of the issues.

Activities which may be funded under the grant include, but are not limited to, planning meetings, preparation of papers, seminars, colloquia, conferences, public forums and debates, publication and dissemination of printed materials, audio-taping,

and lectures. Due to high costs and the special nature of documentary film and video productions, such activities cannot be funded under this grant. Projects will be eligible for inclusion in the CCH-sponsored radio series, "California Times."

The proposal should describe how the chosen format will lead in a carefully designed sequence of activities from small group discussions for intensive analysis of the issues to programs of broad public outreach. Program activities should be completed no later than eighteen months from the starting date.

Any nonprofit organization, institution, or group, whether or not incorporated or tax-exempt, is eligible to apply under this program. Potential applicants include colleges and universities, libraries, museums, historical societies, professional associations, agencies of state and local government, community organizations and ad hoc groups. Cosponsorship by two or more organizations, such as a civic group and a university, is encouraged. Grants are not made to individuals.

Anyone wishing a copy of the RFP and application forms should phone or write the CCH San Francisco office.

The winner of the *Peace and War* competition will be selected at the forthcoming quarterly meeting of the CCH on January 7 in Los Angeles.

Materials produced under CCH funding, whether copyrighted or not, may be reproduced by the Humanities Council for its own purposes. Because of possible rights reserved by the authors or originating agencies, however, articles from *Humanities Network* should not be reprinted without consulting the Council staff.

Film Wins High Praise

A writer from *Variety* attended the 8th Sun Valley Conference held by the Institute of the American West in Ketchum, Idaho, last August, and commented on a CCH-supported film:

"One of the major filmic surprises of the session was a stunning half-hour color documentary titled 'A Cowhand's Song.' Made by two young ladies from the East, Gwendolyn Clancy and Nancy Kelly, who spent four years on a ranch working, winning over the Westerners and then making their film, it deals with the contemporary problem of ranchers who exist by grazing their cattle on nominally rented public lands—lands that may now be sold away from them. Its theme is important and urgent... it is a superb film, influenced by Ford certainly, but using cinema-verite techniques as well, so that it is both traditional and thoroughly modern."

New Member Joins Council

James D. Houston, a professional writer who lives in Santa Cruz, will be welcomed as a member of the California Council for the Humanities at its meeting on January 7. Born in San Francisco, Houston has spent most of his life on the Pacific Coast of the United States. He has published a collection of short stories and four novels, most recently *Continental Drift*, for which he received an NEA writing grant.

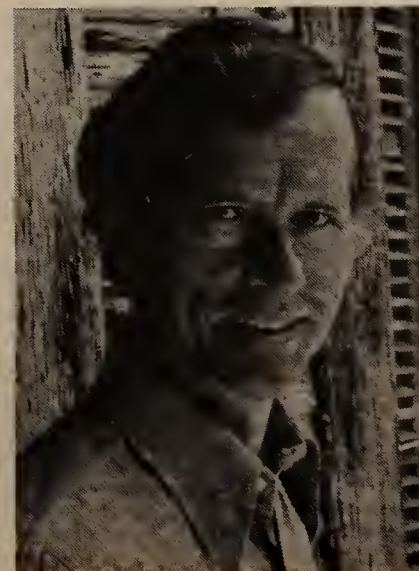
Among his non-fiction works is *Farewell to Manzanar*, co-authored by his wife, Jeanne Wakatusuki Houston, the story of her family's experiences during the World War Two Internment of Japanese Americans in California. For the television script based on that book they received an Emmy Award Nomination and the Humanities Prize.

Houston's latest book is the newly

published *Californians: Search for the Golden State*, which is now being reviewed by major critics.

Houston holds a B.A. in Drama from San Jose State University and an M.S. in American Literature from Stanford.

His shorter works, stories, articles, essays and reviews have appeared in a dozen popular periodicals and in numerous collections, including *Stanford Stories*, *The Year's Best Science Fiction* and *The Borzoi College Reader*. His most recent award was a Travel Grant to Asia, sponsored by the Arts America Program, U.S. International Communications Agency, in the fall of 1981. Houston currently divides his time between writing books and writing for film, occasionally offering workshops at the U.C. Santa Cruz campus, where he holds a lectureship in creative writing.



JAMES D. HOUSTON

California Council for the Humanities

312 Sutter Street, Suite 601, San Francisco CA 94108 415/391-1474
Oviatt Building, Suite 711, 617 S. Olive St., Los Angeles CA 90014 213/629-3796

RICHARD WASSERSTROM, Chair
Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Santa Cruz

JOHN BERUTTI
Rancher and Writer, Sattley

WALTER H. CAPPS
Professor of Religious Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara

LUCIE CHENG
Director, Asian American Studies Center
University of California, Los Angeles

CARLOS CORTES
Professor of History
University of California, Riverside

CARL N. DEGLER
Professor of History
Standord University

LLOYD B. DENNIS
Director of Public Affairs
First Interstate Bank, Los Angeles

CARMEN ESTRADA
*Attorney, Mexican American Legal
Defense & Education Fund*
San Francisco

JAMES D. HOUSTON
Writer, Santa Cruz

MARSHA JEFFER
Film Producer-Educator, Cypress

MARILYN KATLEMAN
Community Volunteer, Beverly Hills

SYLVIA LODGE MARKS
Writer and Lecturer, Santa Monica

FRANKLIN D. McPEAK
Senior Corporate Vice President
McClatchy Newspapers, Sacramento

WALTER W. MINGER
Senior Vice President, Agribusiness
Bank of America, San Francisco

HELENE MOGLEN
Dean, Division of Humanities and Arts
University of California, Santa Cruz

ROY HARVEY PEARCE
Professor of American Literature
University of California, San Diego

FLORETTE POMEROY
Consultant in Philanthropy
San Francisco

ANTHONY L. RAMOS
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
California State Council of Carpenters
San Francisco

ELEANOR MASON RAMSEY
President, Mason-Tillman Associates
Berkeley

THOMAS SANCHEZ
Author, Santa Barbara

ANITA SILVERS
Professor of Philosophy
San Francisco State University

KATHRYN KISH SKLAR
Professor of History
University of California, Los Angeles

DOTTIE SMITH
Designer-Civic Leader
Riverside

JULIA THOMAS
*President, Bobrow/Thomas and
Associates, Los Angeles*

ANDREA L. VAN DE KAMP
*Manager, Carter Hawley Hale Stores,
Stores Inc., Los Angeles*

STAFF:

BRUCE R. SIEVERS
Executive Director

KATHERINE KOBAYASHI
Program Officer

ANN PESCATELLO
Special Projects Officer

DOROTHY REED
Editor

CHRISTINA HERRICK
Financial Administrator

TERI PETERSON
Administrative Assistant

PAMELA JOHNSON
Secretary

NEXT DEADLINES: All categories except joint CCH-CPBP Fund
January 31, 1983
April 30, 1983

Joint CCH-CPBC Fund
(for Public Radio &
TV Programs)
March 30, 1983

Proposals for these deadlines must conform to the 1982-1984 Program Announcement.
TEN copies of all proposals must arrive in the San Francisco office by the date due.

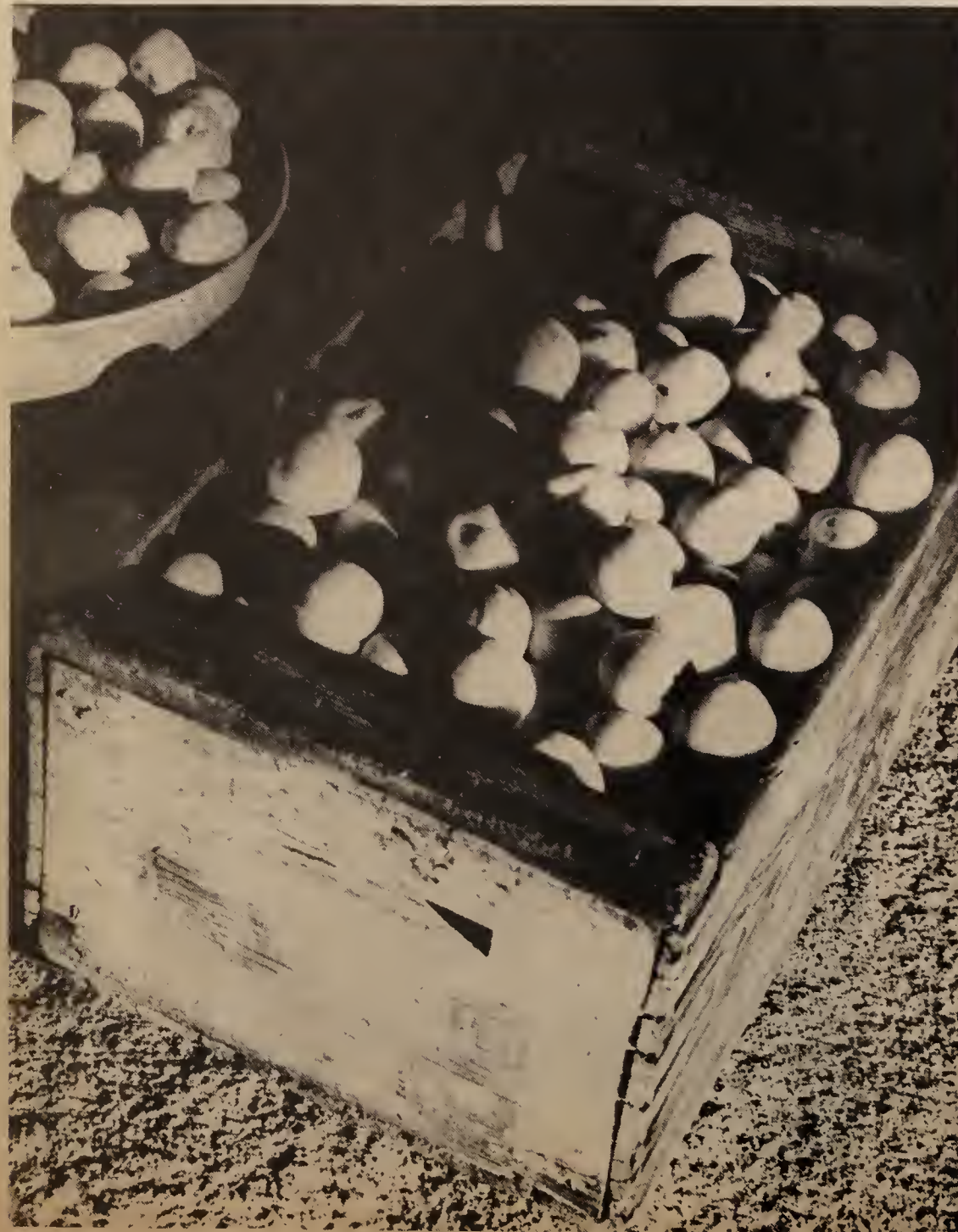
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Jose, Calif.
Permit No. 1

Humanities Exhibits

HUMANITIES NETWORK



Newsletter of the California Council for the Humanities
Fall, 1982 Volume 5, No. 3



Yvonne Jacobson photo